

Thorndike Press®

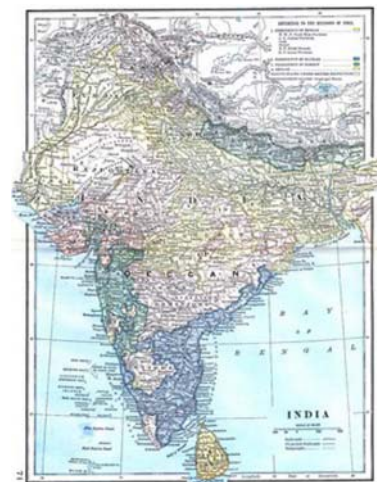
TEACHER'S GUIDE

Written by Rosemary Pillsbury

CHAPTER 1

Vocabulary

<i>tyrannical</i>	(pg. 10)	cruel; oppressive
<i>governess</i>	(pg. 10)	a woman who works training and teaching children
<i>disdaining</i>	(pg. 12)	showing scorn; treating another as if he/she is of lesser value than oneself
<i>imploringly</i>	(pg. 12)	in a begging manner
<i>appalling</i>	(pg. 13)	disgusting
<i>cholera</i>	(pg. 13)	an infectious intestinal disease with symptoms of diarrhea, pain, and dehydration
<i>desolation</i>	(pg. 16)	loneliness; misery; waste



Comprehension

1. Fill in the correct responses to complete the paragraph.

Missie Sahib, known to the English as _____, was raised by her _____ and taught by _____. She became an orphan in _____, where she had been born, following the deaths of her parents due to _____.

2. What two things caused Missie Sahib to become “as tyrannical and selfish a little pig as ever lived”?

CHAPTER 2

Vocabulary

<i>impudent</i>	(pg. 19)	bold; disrespectful; saucy
<i>hunchback</i>	(pg. 21)	a person with a deformed back
<i>sallow</i>	(pg. 23)	yellow
<i>discomfited</i>	(pg. 26)	embarrassed
<i>indifference</i>	(pg. 26)	lack of interest; lack of concern; apathy
<i>moor</i>	(pg. 27)	rolling wasteland, sometimes marshy, usually covered with brush

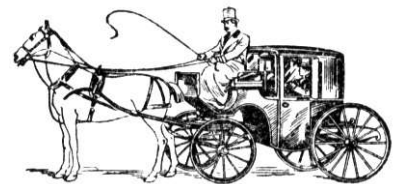
Comprehension

1. Why is Mrs. Medlock unhappy about having to take Mary to Yorkshire?

2. What is Mary's exact relationship to Mr. Archibald Craven?

3. Who is the one person whom Mr. Craven sees regularly and what is their relationship?

CHAPTER 3



Vocabulary

<i>waterproofs</i>	(pg. 31)	raincoats
<i>brougham</i>	(pg. 32)	a carriage with a passenger cab and a driver's seat on the outside
<i>vicarage</i>	(pg. 34)	the home of the vicar or pastor and his family
<i>singular</i>	(pg. 34)	odd; remarkable

Comprehension

1. Why doesn't Mary offer to help Mrs. Medlock with her luggage?

2. After being taken to her new home, Mary finds what two pleasant things in her room?

CHAPTER 4

Vocabulary

<i>hearth</i>	(pg. 39)	the brick floor of a fireplace
<i>cinders</i>	(pg. 39)	ashes
<i>tapestry</i>	(pg. 39)	decoratively or artistically woven cloth wall hanging
<i>obsequious</i>	(pg. 40)	overly dutiful; submissive
<i>servile</i>	(pg. 40)	submissive; in the manner of a servant
<i>salaams</i>	(pg. 41)	greetings; exchanges of peaceful greetings
<i>haughtily</i>	(pg. 41)	proudly; showing scorn or contempt; in a superior manner; in a snobbish manner
<i>imperious</i>	(pg. 42)	masterful; overbearing; arrogant
<i>vexed</i>	(pg. 43)	angered
<i>subservient</i>	(pg. 47)	helpful, in the manner of a servant
<i>rustic</i>	(pg. 47)	a country person; an unsophisticated person
<i>treacle</i>	(pg. 49)	molasses
<i>vituals</i>	(pg. 49)	food; provisions
<i>indignant</i>	(pg. 49)	feeling or showing anger or scorn; showing a feeling of having been insulted

Comprehension

1. What prejudice does Mary reveal to Martha?

2. What has Mr. Craven ordered for Mary?

3. In talking to the robin, Mary realizes and admits what about herself that she has not previously known?

CHAPTER 5

Vocabulary

<i>languid</i>	(pg. 70)	sluggish; slow; weak
<i>buffeting</i>	(pg. 72)	punching; hitting; slapping



Comprehension

1. In addition to running outside and communicating with a robin, what two good things does Mary recognize have happened to her since her arrival at Misselthwaite Manor?

2. About what does Mary think Martha is lying?

CHAPTER 6

Vocabulary

<i>mahouts</i>	(pg. 83)	drivers and keepers of Indian elephants
<i>palanquins</i>	(pg. 83)	covered litters (seats for human passengers) raised on poles and carried on the shoulders of human bearers

Comprehension

1. Mary does some exploring inside the mansion. For what is she searching and what “toys” does she find?

CHAPTER 7

Vocabulary

homely (pg. 90) homelike; familiar

Comprehension

1. What question does Martha ask Mary that is food for thought to her?

2. To what discovery does the robin lead Mary?

CHAPTER 8

Vocabulary

heathen (pg. 106) a non-religious person

Comprehension

1. What gift from Mrs. Sowerby does Martha give Mary and how does Mary react to Martha?

2. How is Mary’s discovery of the secret garden like her Ayah’s stories?

CHAPTER 9

Comprehension

1. How is Mary going to get tools for the garden?

CHAPTER 10

Vocabulary

<i>hobnailed</i>	(pg. 128)	having short nail heads hammered into the heel to prevent slipping or to add traction
<i>wench</i>	(pg. 134)	a serving girl
<i>tremulous</i>	(pg. 135)	trembling; quivering
<i>naught</i>	(pg. 141)	nothing

Comprehension

1. Quote the sentence which best describes the robin's vanity — his pride in his own beauty.

2. What are Dickon's physical characteristics?

CHAPTER 11

Vocabulary

<i>knobstick</i>	(pg. 149)	a walking stick
------------------	-----------	-----------------

Comprehension

1. Name the five "people" that Mary likes.

2. What different things could be described as “things runnin’ wild, an’ swingin’ an’ catchin’ hold of each other”?

CHAPTER 12

Comprehension

1. Mary finally meets Mr. Craven and is surprised by what three things that he agrees to do for her?

CHAPTER 13

Vocabulary

Hindustani (pg. 188) a language of northern India

Comprehension

1. How is Colin’s life similar to Mary’s life in India?

2. What do we learn about Colin’s doctor that leads us to mistrust him?

CHAPTER 14

Vocabulary

rajah (pg. 190) an Indian prince

reproachfully (pg. 205) scornfully; showing disapproval

Comprehension

1. Why is Colin kept in bed?

2. How is Colin like a rajah?

CHAPTER 15

Vocabulary

herbaceous (pg. 214) related to green growing plants and herbs

Comprehension

1. Quote the sentence from page 212 which tells why Colin believes that he and Dickon will get along.

CHAPTER 16

Vocabulary

self-sacrificing (pg. 227) putting the needs of others above one's own interests

doleful (pg. 229) sad

condescended (pg. 231) stooped; lowered oneself to another's level or status

obstinate (pg. 231) stubborn; mulish

unrelenting (pg. 235) unyielding; holding fast

Comprehension

1. What gifts does Mary receive from Mr. Craven?

2. Colin confesses to Mary about the source of his tantrums. What is it?

CHAPTER 17

Comprehension

1. What does Mary do in response to Colin's tantrum that makes him want to live and see the secret garden?

CHAPTER 18

Vocabulary

affectation (pg. 257) pretending; falseness

enraptured (pg. 260) delighted; enchanted

Comprehension

1. What does Mary do when she visits Colin that makes them both laugh?

CHAPTER 19

Vocabulary

unscrupulous (pg. 264) without a sense of right and wrong

signet ring (pg. 266) a ring with an initial, seal, or monogram

volubly (pg. 267) glibly; talkatively

recluse (pg. 272) a shut-away; a person who lives a life apart from others

austerely (pg. 273) gravely; soberly; seriously

ravenous (pg. 276) wildly hungry

ecstasy (pg. 276) delight; joy

Comprehension

1. If as a reader you were afraid that Dr. Craven was adding to Colin's poor health, what quote from page 264 changed your mind?

2. As Spring arrives, what visitors arrive in Colin's room?

CHAPTER 20

Vocabulary

<i>menagerie</i>	(pg. 281)	animal collection
<i>morbid</i>	(pg. 285)	related to death or disease; gruesome; unhealthy

Comprehension

1. What does Colin say upon his first visit to the secret garden?

CHAPTER 21

Vocabulary

<i>in state</i>	(pg. 293)	in a ceremonious display, according to a protocol showing high social rank or wealth
<i>imperiously</i>	(pg. 303)	masterfully; in an overbearing manner
<i>gnarled</i>	(pg. 303)	twisted; knotted

Comprehension

1. What happens when Ben accuses Colin of having crooked legs?

CHAPTER 22

Vocabulary

<i>testily</i>	(pg. 309)	irritably; angrily
<i>persevered</i>	(pg. 314)	persisted; stuck to a task

Comprehension

1. Why did Ben continue to prune the roses in the secret garden even though the master of the house had forbidden going there?

CHAPTER 23

Vocabulary

<i>sheaves</i>	(pg. 321)	grooved rims
<i>singular</i>	(pg. 324)	unique; one of a kind; exceptional
<i>fakirs</i>	(pg. 327)	holy men of the Hindu faith who live by begging
<i>dervishes</i>	(pg. 330)	members of a Moslem sect who practice whirling as a religious act

Comprehension

1. Which of Colin's characteristics does Mary criticize and how does Colin plan to overcome this flaw?

2. What two things does Colin say he will become?

CHAPTER 24

Vocabulary

<i>revelation</i>	(pg. 341)	disclosure; something made known, revealed, or shown
<i>copious</i>	(pg. 347)	plentiful; abundant
<i>mystic</i>	(pg. 348)	magical; having to do with secret rites or practices

Comprehension

1. What are three things the children do to become strong?

CHAPTER 25

Vocabulary

<i>boudoir</i>	(pg. 363)	a bedroom; a sitting room
----------------	-----------	---------------------------

Comprehension

1. According to the robins, how do humans compare to the Eggs?

CHAPTER 26

Vocabulary

<i>incantations</i>	(pg. 367)	chanting of words supposed to have magical powers
---------------------	-----------	---

Comprehension

1. What advice does Susan Sowerby give Colin?

CHAPTER 27

Vocabulary

<i>detestation</i>	(pg. 383)	hatred; loathing
<i>hypochondriac</i>	(pg. 383)	a person who is constantly anxious and sad about his health and likely to imagine that he is suffering from imagined illnesses and diseases

Comprehension

1. What happens to Mr. Craven on the same day that Colin announces he will live for ever?

TEACHER'S PAGE

Pre-reading activities: *The Secret Garden* is set in turn-of-the-twentieth-century India and England. This would be a good tie-in to an integrated curriculum unit about colonialism and the exploitation of India by the colonial powers who sought its spices and other resources, especially following the incursion of the British East India Company in the mid-1700's. The novel is set after 1858, when Britain took over the rule of India from the British East India Company. Mary's temporary placement at the vicarage highlights the missionary nature of the time period as well, and the dismissal of the indigenous populations as less than human because they were Hindu and Muslim, rather than Christian. If you wish to make this an integrated language arts and social studies unit, assign students to these various tasks to complete (or prepare lessons for them) as pre-reading preparation: 1) describe early Harappan civilization; 2) describe the conflict between the Aryans and Dravidians around 1500 B.C.; 3) describe the caste system; 4) prepare a report on Babar; 5) describe the importance of the Battle of Plassey; 6) describe the Sepoy rebellion; 7) describe the Muslim League of 1906; 8) describe the role of Mohandas Gandhi in promoting Indian independence; 9) describe the origins of Pakistan; 10) research Hinduism; 11) research the Muslim religion.

Collect flower and bulb books and gardening books, so that students may cut out flower pictures or draw/paint/color their own to illustrate their writing pieces.

If you have access to a garden plot, ask for bulbs or perennials to plant so that the students will be surprised later in the year with the blooming of their own secret garden. Research conditions required and prepare the soil before setting out the bulbs/plants/seeds. You may wish to make connections with your science curriculum to tie in this activity. Enlist the help of a local county extension or garden club. You may want to focus on plants that will encourage a butterfly garden. You may also wish to invite your local Audubon Society to speak about bird watching and how to set up a bird feeding area. Both activities could be incorporated into a unit on the local habitat.

Writing Prompts

Select those which meet your students' needs. Prepare models to read aloud as you present the assignments.

1. (From Chapter 4) When Mary first meets the friendly little robin, she realizes that she is lonely. Describe what keeps you from feeling lonely.
2. (From Chapter 7) Ben Weatherstaff tells Mary that Spring is coming and she should watch for "crocuses an' snow drops an' daffy down dillys." Write a description of your favorite season or time of year, including clear images of what you see, hear, smell, or feel.
3. (From Chapter 8) Mary Lennox didn't cry when her Ayah died, but she paid attention to her stories when she was alive, and many of the stories dealt with Magic, a sense of wonder, and delight. Describe something in nature that has this same sense of wonder to you.
4. (From Chapter 10) Dickon says, "Sometimes I think p'raps I'm a bird, or a fox, or a rabbit, or a squirrel, or even a beetle, an' I don't know it." Imagine yourself as an animal and write about your day (or night) without naming what animal you are. Tell what you do, how you look, your habitat, what you eat, your sounds, et cetera. Share your writing. Are your classmates able to identify what animal you are?
5. (From Chapter 13) Colin says, "It makes me ill to be angry" when he first meets Mary. Later, we read, "He had never told anyone but Mary that most of his tantrums...grew out of his hysterical hidden fear." Describe a time you were very afraid and how you dealt with being afraid.
6. (From Chapter 18) Do you agree with Susan Sowerby when she says, according to Martha, "th' two worst things as can happen to a child is never to have his own way — or always to have it"? Explain.
7. (From Chapter 23, p. 323) Colin says, "Of course, there must be lots of Magic in the world, but people don't know what it is like or how to make it. Perhaps the beginning is just to say nice things are going to happen until you make them happen." Share a story, from your personal experience or research, about someone who found the Magic.

8. Frances Hodgson Burnett writes of Mr. Craven, “He had not been courageous; he had never tried to put any other thoughts in the place of the dark ones.” Mr. Craven is looking at blue forget-me-nots when he starts to feel alive for the first time in ten years. Gardening helps Mary and Colin feel alive. Describe a hobby or form of recreation that helps or could help you find courage.

Readers’ Theatre is an opportunity to help students improve their fluency and comprehension by role-playing. Chapter 26 is full of conversation and can easily be made into a script with dialogue for five players: Dickon, Colin, Ben Weatherstaff, Mary, and Susan Sowerby. Readers’ Theatre is like staged reading, but the emphasis is on dialogue rather than movement. Since students will need to read with inflection to be effective, they *naturally* re-read the scripts until they have improved their reading, thus encouraging fluency. Stage the script several times, until all students have participated and increased their fluency.

Omniscient viewpoint is the type of point of view used in *The Secret Garden*. Using this method, the author can see, know, and describe every character within the story, revealing the motivations, actions, thoughts, and emotions of each. Explore the omniscient viewpoint and its unusual use in Chapter 25, in which the thoughts of the robins are included. Discuss how this use of the omniscient viewpoint complements the author’s theme of Magic.

Use a **Venn Diagram** to compare/contrast the movie and the novel.

Conventions of English Point out to students that this novel was published in 1911 by an English-born, American author and that the conventions of British English and American English are not always the same. Use the example of the single quotation, used in the text to indicate dialogue, as opposed to the double quotation, which is standard in American English. Just as Yorkshire has its own dialect, different parts of the world have their own conventions. And these conventions change with time. Point out also that languages borrow from each other. English, for example, has no single word for a person who devotes his life to working with an elephant, so we borrow the word *mahout* from India. Point out that spellings may be regional, as well. Use the *ou* combination as an example. In American English, we write *labor*, while in British English the word may be

written *labour*. And, in British English, the *er* at the end of a word such as *theater* may appear as *theatre*. Ask students to watch for variations on spelling. You may wish to design a lesson around the fluctuations and regionalisms of the English language by using old dictionaries and modern ones and comparing/contrasting sections, or by using a British or Irish travel book to consult for variations in language, such as *petrol* for gas or *underground* for subway. Ask students to notice the words that seem to come from a different era, such as *brougham*. Language is as fluid as those who speak it. You may wish to design a board showing expressions used by young people which may have little meaning to adults.

CHAPTER 1

Comprehension

1. Fill in the correct responses to complete the paragraph.

Missie Sahib, known to the English as Mary Lennox, was raised by her Ayah and taught by governesses. She became an orphan in India, where she had been born, following the deaths of her parents due to cholera.

2. What two things caused Missie Sahib to become “as tyrannical and selfish a little pig as ever lived”?

First, Missie Sahib was rejected by her mother, who had no interest in mothering; secondly, she was indulged by her Ayah (servant) who was afraid she might be fired if Missie cried, and therefore gave her everything she wanted to prevent her from crying.

CHAPTER 2

Comprehension

1. Why is Mrs. Medlock unhappy about having to take Mary to Yorkshire?

By taking Mary to Yorkshire, Mrs. Medlock is missing her niece's wedding.

2. What is Mary's exact relationship to Mr. Archibald Craven?

Mr. Craven is related to Mary by marriage. His wife was the sister of Mary's father, so she is his niece and he is her uncle.

3. Who is the one person whom Mr. Craven sees regularly and what is their relationship?

Mr. Craven sees Pitcher, who cared for him when he was a young child.

CHAPTER 3

Comprehension

1. Why doesn't Mary offer to help Mrs. Medlock with her luggage?

Mary doesn't offer to help because Mrs. Medlock is a servant and in India servants were expected to attend to all such heavy work.

2. After being taken to her new home, Mary finds what two pleasant things in her room?

Mary finds a fire and supper waiting for her.

CHAPTER 4

Comprehension

1. What prejudice does Mary reveal to Martha?

Mary is insulted when Martha tells her she had thought she might be a native. She reveals her prejudice by telling Martha that natives are not human and that she believes they were created solely to act as servants.

2. What has Mr. Craven ordered for Mary?

Mr. Craven has ordered clothing with color for her.

3. In talking to the robin, Mary realizes and admits what about herself that she has not previously known?

Mary realizes and admits that she is lonely.

CHAPTER 5

Comprehension

1. In addition to running outside and communicating with a robin, what two good things does Mary recognize have happened to her since her arrival at Misselthwaite Manor?

Mary realizes she is healthy for the first time and that she has learned to be sorry for someone else, namely Mr. Craven.

2. About what does Mary think Martha is lying?

Mary hears a crying sound in the house and doubts Martha's explanation that it is a scullery maid with a toothache.

CHAPTER 6

Comprehension

1. Mary does some exploring inside the mansion. For what is she searching and what "toys" does she find?

Mary is searching for the library and finds a collection of elephant figurines to play with.

CHAPTER 7

Comprehension

1. What question does Martha ask Mary that is food for thought to her?

Martha asks Mary how she likes herself, something Mary had never considered.

2. To what discovery does the robin lead Mary?

The robin leads Mary to a key on a ring, possibly the key to the secret garden.

CHAPTER 8

Comprehension

1. What gift from Mrs. Sowerby does Martha give Mary and how does Mary react to Martha?

Martha gives Mary a "skippin' rope" and Mary thanks her "stiffly" because she is not used to noticing others' kindnesses toward her or to expressing gratitude.

2. How is Mary's discovery of the secret garden like her Ayah's stories?

The wind and the robin seemed to collaborate in a magical way in helping Mary find the door to the secret garden. Her Ayah's stories also contained a lot of Magic.

CHAPTER 9

Comprehension

1. How is Mary going to get tools for the garden?

Martha has agreed to ask Dickon to purchase seeds and garden tools and to deliver them to Mary.

CHAPTER 10

Comprehension

1. Quote the sentence which best describes the robin's vanity — his pride in his own beauty.

"There's nothing he wouldn't do for the sake o' showin' off an' flirtin' his tail-feathers."

2. What are Dickon's physical characteristics?

Dickon is about twelve, has round blue eyes, curly red hair, red cheeks, and a wide red mouth that moves into a big smile.

CHAPTER 11

Comprehension

1. Name the five "people" that Mary likes.

Mary likes Dickon, his mother, Martha, Ben Weatherstaff, and the robin.

2. What different things could be described as "things runnin' wild, an' swingin' an' catchin' hold of each other"?

While this is Mary's description of the secret garden, it could also describe her and Dickon.

CHAPTER 12

Comprehension

1. Mary finally meets Mr. Craven and is surprised by what three things that he agrees to do for her?

Mr. Craven agrees to allow her to claim a garden plot. He postpones hiring a governess for her. And he gives permission for her to visit the Sowerby cottage.

CHAPTER 13

Comprehension

1. How is Colin's life similar to Mary's life in India?

Colin, like Mary when she lived in India, spends most of his time being cared for by servants who indulge his every wish to keep him from having a tantrum.

2. What do we learn about Colin's doctor that leads us to mistrust him?
We learn that Colin's doctor will inherit Misselthwaite when Mr. Craven and Colin have both died.

CHAPTER 14

Comprehension

1. Why is Colin kept in bed?
Colin is kept in bed because his father is a hunchback and it is hoped that keeping Colin in bed will prevent him from becoming a hunchback.
2. How is Colin like a rajah?
Colin is like a rajah because he commands and dismisses his servants upon a whim, and the servants are fearful to fail to meet his demands.

CHAPTER 15

Comprehension

1. Quote the sentence from page 212 which tells why Colin believes that he and Dickon will get along.
"He's a sort of animal-charmer and I am a boy animal."

CHAPTER 16

Comprehension

1. What gifts does Mary receive from Mr. Craven?
Mary receives games, a writing case, pen and ink stand, and books about gardening.
2. Colin confesses to Mary about the source of his tantrums. What is it?
Colin says his tantrums come from fear about becoming a hunchback.

CHAPTER 17

Comprehension

1. What does Mary do in response to Colin's tantrum that makes him want to live and see the secret garden?
Mary insists upon inspecting his spine, and she tells him that it has no lumps.

CHAPTER 18

Comprehension

1. What does Mary do when she visits Colin that makes them both laugh?

Mary speaks to Dickon in a broad Yorkshire accent.

CHAPTER 19

Comprehension

1. If as a reader you were afraid that Dr. Craven was adding to Colin's poor health, what quote from page 264 changed your mind?

Dr. Craven . . . was not an unscrupulous man, though he was a weak one, and he did not intend to let him run into actual danger.

2. As Spring arrives, what visitors arrive in Colin's room?

Colin is visited by Mary and Dickon, along with his fox, crow, squirrels, and a new lamb.

CHAPTER 20

Comprehension

1. What does Colin say upon his first visit to the secret garden?

Colin says, "I shall live for ever and ever and ever!"

CHAPTER 21

Comprehension

1. What happens when Ben accuses Colin of having crooked legs?

Colin gets so angry that, with Dickon's help, he stands.

CHAPTER 22

Comprehension

1. Why did Ben continue to prune the roses in the secret garden even though the master of the house had forbidden going there?

Ben continued because Mrs. Craven, before she died, had asked him to tend the roses if she was ever unable to tend them.

CHAPTER 23

Comprehension

1. Which of Colin's characteristics does Mary criticize and how does Colin plan to overcome this flaw?

Mary criticizes rudeness, and Colin says he will overcome this flaw by the white magic in the secret garden.

2. What two things does Colin say he will become?

Colin says he will become an athlete and a scientific discoverer.

CHAPTER 24

Comprehension

1. What are three things the children do to become strong?

To become strong, the children eat the current buns and fresh milk Mrs. Sowerby sends, roast potatoes and eggs over an open fire, and do exercises Dickon learned from a wrestler.

CHAPTER 25

Comprehension

1. According to the robins, how do humans compare to the Eggs?

According to the robins, humans are less clever and learn more slowly. This is apparent to them because humans never learn to fly, while Eggs do.

CHAPTER 26

Comprehension

1. What advice does Susan Sowerby give Colin?

Susan Sowerby advises Colin to call his father home to see him — his healthy, happy son.

CHAPTER 27

Comprehension

1. What happens to Mr. Craven on the same day that Colin announces he will live for ever?

Mr. Craven feels suddenly alive as he is looking at a field of blue forget-me-nots. That night he dreams that Lillas Craven is calling him into the secret garden.